



United States Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**In Response to Public Comments, the Service Offers a New Alternative to Revise
the Wapanocca NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), Southeast Region, requests comments on an additional management alternative proposed for Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA) revision.

In December 2013, the Service released a Draft Revised CCP and EA for public comment. In addition to the public comments received at the public meeting in Turrell, Arkansas on December 9, 2013, the Service received 13 comments from private individuals, non-governmental organizations, and agencies during its December 2, 2013 – January 6, 2014, comment period. In response to these comments, the Service has created a third management alternative (Alternative C), which it proposes as the new proposed action for Refuge management. This alternative maintains the current farming acreage through 2016, reduces the annual farming area from 498 acres to 300 acres in 2017, increases the annually cultivated impoundment area to 75 acres, and restores 363 acres of bottomland hardwood forest.

Copies of the new Draft CCP and EA are available at Wapanocca NWR Headquarters Office and <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/planning/CCP/WapanoccaDraftSinglePageDocument.html>. Sections of the new draft CCP and EA that have been recently revised are indicated in the text of the document (Revised). If you have any questions or concerns, please call Bill Peterson, Refuge Manager, at 870/343-2595.

Through May 27, 2014, comments on the new Draft CCP and EA may be provided by:

- E-mailing tina_chouinard@fws.gov. Please include “Wapanocca NWR” in the subject line
- Mailing to Tina Chouinard, Natural Resource Planner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 49 Plainsbrook Place, Jackson, TN 38305 or Fax to 731/664-1566

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit <http://www.fws.gov> and <http://www.fws.gov/southeast>.